

Supplemental Examiner's Amendment

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

(1) On page 8, line 26 of the specification, after "snap hooks 25.", the following sentences have been added:

--As shown in Fig.5, each hook 25 has an upwardly extending arm portion and a hook portion terminating at a free end thereof. The hook portion extends from the arm portion toward a center of the coupling member 11 for hooking onto the coupling bush 15 located around a center of the inner cutter 6 (see the dash lines in Fig.5). The arm portion, in a direction from the coupling member 11 to the inner cutter 6, points toward the center of the coupling member 11.--

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Dicran Halajian on January 12, 2010.

Point of Contact

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hwei-Siu C. Payer whose telephone number is 571-272-

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4511. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 7:00 am to 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Boyer Ashley can be reached on 571-272-4502. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 571-273-8300 for official communications and 571-273-4511 for proposed amendments.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

H Payer
January 12, 2010

/Hwei-Siu C. Payer/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3724